

From: Joe Meldrich
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 10:11am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Softex, Inc

Friday, January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Special interests may try to undo the recent settlement reached in the Microsoft antitrust case with the Justice Department. The reason I am contacting you is to show my firm support for this settlement.

Microsoft and the Justice Department reached a settlement after three long and expensive years in court. Both Microsoft and the DOJ spent millions on this case, and thankfully a settlement would bring an end to this flow of resources. If the special interests prevail Microsoft and the Justice Department will end up in court for another three years and spend even more resources on this case. The settlement is reasonable; there is no reason for a renewal of this case. Under the settlement Microsoft will share more information with competitors than any software company has ever shared before. A revival of this case would simply waste time and money, and benefit only special interests and those with animosity toward Microsoft.

The settlement that was reached is more than fair, and I stand behind it.

Sincerely,

Joseph Meldrich
President

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